

itan Regional Council, the National Capital Regional Planning Council and special groups operating in the fields of mass transportation and river pollution

I made reference earlier to responsibilities of the State, and for the remainder of this talk I should like to discuss with you briefly some of the things we have done within the last year that I believe will prove of great benefit to Prince Georges County and the communities which comprise it. First of all, we have reorganized and revitalized the State Planning Department, creating an agency which will have the equipment and the capacity to assist local governments in their programs of planning. The Department has set up a special section for local and regional aid and stimulation to local subdivisions interested in planning.

Then, we have set up a new agency of government—the Department of Economic Development—to assist all areas of the State in improving their economic condition by fostering new and expanded industry. Industry is the principal source of our country's great power and wealth. It is also a primary source of revenue, and it is very difficult for a county or a municipality to defray their costs of operation without some income from industry. The Department of Economic Development will be able to help you in creating the kind of balanced economy that is needed for the progressive development of your area.

Finally, there is the problem of local revenues, and I am aware that the counties and cities of the State are finding it increasingly hard to meet their financial obligations. In suburban areas such as this in particular, local government finances are pushed to their limits by the ever-growing demands for schools, roads, water supply, waste disposal and police and fire protection. The tax on property is your main source of revenue, and it is an acknowledged fact that the property tax, unless it is pushed to confiscatory limits, will not support the governmental services your local governments are called upon to provide. What then? Well, the counties and cities can demand a greater share of the revenues the State collects, or they can ask that the State broaden their taxing authority so they can collect the needed revenues for their own people

The distribution of State funds to the political subdivision has increased at a spectacular rate during the past several years. For example, in 1948 the State allotted from its treasury \$8 million to the subdivisions. In this year's budget, the figure is \$242 million.